

THE WORD

Year A • Season Colour: Green • Psalter week 4

THE CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

(MATTHEW 10: 24-39)

The whole chapter 10 of Matthew's Gospel defines what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. And the definition is not for the faint hearted.

When travelling around the countryside driving out demons and spirits and healing the sick, a true disciple must travel light and leave all money and possessions behind. No bag or extra sandals and each disciple will be sent out like sheep among wolves.

Today's Gospel passage continues in similar vein with a warning to the disciples. When they preach the Word of God, they will encounter bitterness and hatred. Jesus has already experienced adversity in his ministry and is very aware that the same animosity awaits his followers. But the key statement from Jesus is one of hope: "Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul."

The future trials of the disciples are being predicted by Jesus and in many ways the same warnings are applicable for the Church today. We face many trials in the form of decreased numbers attending mass, our teachings and beliefs are under constant challenge and scrutiny by an increasingly secular world and there are many conflicting proposals as to the future direction our Church must take in order to survive.

But amidst the adversity that Jesus and his disciples will face, he says to his followers, "Do not be afraid." True disciples of Jesus are always ready for the difficulties that will come. We are supported by a compassionate and loving Christ who cares for us and encourages us through uncertainty. ■

REFLECT

The Danish Philosopher Soren Kierkegaard tells the story of a fire which began in a small town. The chief fireman on duty that day was a very popular man and so all his friends and neighbours turned out in force to help him put out the fire. Their gesture was well intentioned except they all used water pistols to extinguish the inferno. It didn't work! And the fire chief screamed at them. 'What on earth do you think you are doing? What do you

think you will achieve with those water pistols?' But the people continued to help. This time they squirted their water pistols in unison to have a greater effect. But again the chief responded, 'Get out of here. You're achieving nothing except hindering us from doing what needs to be done.....This is not a place for token contributions.'

Kierkegaard told this story urging all Christians to realise that discipleship to Christ means much more than token levels of support to the Church.

It calls for wholehearted and total life commitment.

Today's theme of discipleship is perhaps an invitation for some of us to evaluate our own commitment to the life of the Church. It's easy to see who the workers in the parish are. Those who dedicate hours and hours every week to helping others. But in light of today's Gospel from Matthew, how do we respond to some of the challenges to the faith. With half heartedness or total life commitment? ■

LEARN

In virtue of Baptism we become missionary disciples, called to bring the Gospel to the world (Evangelii Gaudium, n. 120)

DO

Listen to the Word of God in today's Gospel reading and allow it to transform you towards a life in Christ. Answer the question: How can I show true discipleship in my parish?

SAY

God our Father, surround us with your love, fill us with your grace and strengthen us for your service.

PARISH OF DROMORE

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Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 25th June 2017

Sunday Mass Times

St Colman's Dromore **All Saints Ballela**
Sunday 11.00am Sunday 9.45am

Weekday Mass Times: St Colman's

Mon, Wed, & Fri: 9.30am: Liturgy of the Word
with Eucharist

Tues & Thur: Mass 9.30am

Ballela Anniversaries

Sun 25: Evelyn McAleenan

Sun 2: Kathleen McGrath

Dromore Anniversaries

Sun 25: Agnes & James Gribbin
Nance Stokesberry

Sun 2: None

Offertory Promise Collection £992.73

Readers - Dromore

Sun 2: Grainne Killiner

Recently Deceased

Stephen Patrick Magee, Milebush Rd
Mary (Cis) McGuigan, Rampart St

St Vincent de Paul Annual Senior Citizens'

Outing

Will take place on Sunday 6th August. Booking forms will be available at the end of this month. Mark this in your calendar now!!!

Children's Liturgy in Ballela

Michael and Jill would like to invite anyone interested in helping in any way with Children's Liturgy to a meeting at 8pm on Monday 26th June at their house. We will talk about the ways people might help and make some plans for the summer and new academic year.

Autumn leaves

The recent dance in Dromore hall raised £645.00 for St Vincent de Paul society. Many thanks to everyone who supported in any way.

Parish Draw Winners Week 9

£100	Hugh Mulgrew	465
£50	Gerard Beggs	169
£30	Mabel McCutcheon	081
£20	Anne Marie McCrory	134

Ballela GAC Lotto

Lotto Numbers: 1 3 4 10

No £10 winner's

Sellers draw: Sean Burns Next week's Jackpot £590

Tractor Run

Will take place today **Sun 25th June** in conjunction with **PIPS** as our supported charity. Registration will begin at 12 noon in the club rooms with the run at 2pm. £10 per tractor. There will be a BBQ along with tea, coffee & sandwiches, tuck shop and mini games. There will be a plaque for every tractor entered plus a refreshment voucher. A special plaque for Best Vintage Tractor, Best Modern tractor and booby prize for most dirty.

Dromantine Summer Camp 2017

5 nights' accommodation, 6 days of fun filled activities, and 3 meals a day for only £150! Fun! Faith! Friendship! Running 47 years, welcome Boys and Girls aged 11-17.

Boys Camp – week 1: Sun 16th July – Fri 21st July

Girls Camp – Week 3: Sun 13th Aug – Fri 18th Aug

Visit our web site for further information about the Camp and available spaces remaining.

Summercamp.dromantineconference.com/
or Tel: 02830821224

Glór Uachtar Tíre Irish language summer scheme Castlewellan

Runs between 17th - 21st July. There will be lots of fun activities, hut – building, cook – off's, radio and media workshops, and orienteering. Price: £45 per child (£40 if more than one child registered per family) and best of all it is all through the medium of Irish! Application forms available on www.gloruachtartire.com. for more info contact GUT on Tel :02843770332 or 07501252027